Secta. II–27—100,000—21–5–55.

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Home Pol. IV

1950

(~~1950~~) **Department.**

No **SERIES.**

G.O. No. 2103

Dated 8.5.50.

[Despatch Abstract.]

POLICE - Fire Service Branch - Rent free quarters to staff - Recovery of water and electricity consumption charges besides the cost of installation - Recommendation ofthe D.D.S. - Accepted.

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

From
C.R.Hadingham, Esq., L.I.
Fire E. Director of Fire Services,
Egmore, Madras-8.

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Public Fire Service Dept.,
Madras.

Rc.No.4458/A1/49.

SUB: Madras Fire Services - Rent free quarters to staff - Recovery of water and Electricity consumption - Charges in addition to cost of installation.

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1. I have to state that some of the officers of the Fire Service were in occupation of rent free quarters in buildings either owned or rented by Government both in the city and muffassal. With the reversion of the service to peace-time strength, the rented buildings were surrendered and Government buildings not required for the peace-time working were also handed over to the concerned authorities. Payments on account of Electricity and water consumption charges were met out of the contengencies of the section or office concerned during the periods the buildings were occupied.

2. During the review of the audit of the city section accounts from 1-4-46, it was noticed that proportionate -- ..ct electricity and water consumption charges as assessed by the Public Works Department where required, had not been recovered from the occupiers of therent free quarters as contemplated under Note 2 to Fundemantal Rule 45(b). Objection was therefore taken to the non-recovery in such cases and anticipating similar non-recoveries in the muffassal also, a standing order was issued in August, 1948 directing the recovery of the charges from the date of occupation of quarters.

3. In actual practice, however, it is found that recovery of old arrears is made difficult and in some cases impracticable due to the following reasons:-

(a) The primary reason why the Madras Fire Services personnel (i.e., Sub Officers and Station Officers) were ordered to occupy quarters was to enable the service to keep the officers on call all the twenty four hours of the day. The provision of quarters was therefore more in the -- interests of the service than that of the individuals.

(b) The persons occupying the quarters were under the impression that free quarters meant - free light and water and they were not therefore aware that any charges would be recovered from them for consumption of electricity and water.

(c) The fire station buildings were placed under the charge of/Public Works Department from September 1944 (Vide item 27 to Appendix 11 to Madras - the

P.T.O

Financial Code Vol. II. In the absence of any intimations from that department regarding the necessity for recovery of any charges on this account, it was presumed that no recovery need be effected.

(d) When the P.W.D. was addressed to assess the charges, it was found that though some of other quarters were of the same type design and had the same fittings, the assessments varied from one another and in some case were out of all proportion to ~~in~~ conveniences available. A few examples in city fire stations as reported by the Chief Regional Fire Officer ~~Control~~ Central Region are given below:-

NAME OF STATION	ELECTRICITY CHARGES. Rs.	A.	P.	WATER CHARGES. Rs.	A.	P.
High Court	1	7	0	3	6	0
Teynampet	2	3	0	1	6	0
Washermanpet	6	0	0	not assessed.		
Wall Tax Road.	4	13	0	d-o-		
Seven Wells..	3	10	00	-do-		
Vepery.	4	13	0	-do-		
Kilpauk	4	13	0	-do-		
Triplicane.	1	7	0	-do-		

For levying water charges, actual consumption has been taken into account - without granting any free allowance admissible uunder the Corporation by - laws. The varying rates of Electricity charges are also contested by the occupants, on the ground that it is high and that assessment based on present consumption by a different persons is not fair to the original occupier.

(e) Apart from this, some rented ~~buildings~~ buildings portion of which was used as quarters by the officer in charge (like the Curnbuck club buildings, Perambur) have been handed over to the owners and due to change of points and alterations in structure, it will not now be possible to assess the proportionate charges payable by the occupant on account of Elecricity and water consumption. The result is that recovery from such persons will have either to be made on a lump sum basis which ill not be fair to the individual concerned - or recovery will have to be waived in his case which will again be unfair to the other officers of the same rank and position who, by force of circumstances, happen to be still in service and in occupation of quarters.

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4. In view of the above facts, I consider that the only manner in which this question can be solved without resulting in any injustice or unfair advantage to any particular individual is to exempt the Fire Service staff entitled to free quarters from payment of any charges for electricity and water in the same manner as the Nursing staff etc., attached to hospitals, considering the advantage to Government in having on call the operational officers, all the twenty four hours of the day. If due to any reason, Government consider that such an exemption cannot be granted, I recommend that Government may be pleased to order the recovery of the water and Electricity consumption charges from a date not earlier than 1st January, 1949.

Early orders of Government are requested in the matter.

(Sd.) xx xx xx
DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MADRAS.

(TRUE COPY)

R Thiagarajan 13886
SUPERINTENDENT.
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

1.8.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ABSTRACT.

POLICE - Fire Service Branch - Rent free quarters to staff - Recovery of water and electricity consumption charges besides the cost of installation - Recommendation of the D.F.S. - Accepted.

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HOME DEPARTMENT.

G.O.Ms.No.2103- Dated the 8th May, 1950.

Read the following:-

From the Director of Fire Services Rc.No.4458/A1/49 dated 4-5-49.

From the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (Bulding) No.32/9/WK/49-18 dated 30-3-50.

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ORDER:

In the circumstances reported by the Director of Fire Services in his letter cited, the Government direct that the electric and water supply charges from the fire service personnel entitled to free quarters be recovered with effect from 1st January, 1949. They also direct that all the amounts due to Government on amount of water supply and electric charges in respect of buildings occupied prior to 1st January, 1949 by the Madras Fire Service personnel who were given free quarters be written off the accounts as irrecoverable.

(BY ORDER OF THE ETC.)

(Sd.) xx xx xx
SECRETARY TO GOVT.

To

The Inspector General of Police, Fire Service Branch,
The Accountant-General, through the Finance Department.
The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (building).

(TRUE COPY)

R Thiagarajan 14.8.56
SUPERINTENDENT.
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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14/8/56